

LSPA MEETING MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 8, 2011

The meeting started at 8:40am in the cafeteria.

GUEST SPEAKER – LYNN VOZZELLA

Lynn greeted all families back to Lincoln. She will be busy in the nurse's office through September and October with both the K-5 vision screenings as well as K-3 hearing screenings.

Lynn was pleased to announce that the district is once again planning in-school flu clinics, and it is possible that this year there will be no fee. As in previous years, information and permission forms will be sent home and must be mailed back to the Town offices. Lynn said families should look for this information towards the end of October.

Lynn also reported that there are already some illnesses circulating, namely strep and a stomach virus. And while there have been no cases of head lice so far, Lynn did talk about what to look for and what to do if your child does develop an infestation. She asked all parents' help in checking their children each week – it's far easier for each family to check a few heads than for Lynn to check 450! In addition to distributing some written information including online resources, Lynn also shared some "specimens" of nits and lice so that everyone knows what to look for. It is policy that if a child is found to have head lice, that child can return to school – even the next day – as long as one pediculicide treatment has been done and the child is nit-free.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The June 20, 2011 meeting minutes were reviewed and approved as is.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Lietza Molloy shared that last year was very successful: the LSPA earned \$2,000 more than the prior year through the Direct Appeal (+ Matching Gifts) and managed spending well – thanks to everyone for a job well done. The LSPA has been carrying a surplus balance for several years now, and at the May 2011 meeting (see notes) the LSPA voted to spend about \$20,000 for needed items around the school and playground. Lietza shared that the process was well-managed and the surplus was indeed spent in the 2010-11 fiscal year, as reflected in the June 2011 ytd budget.

Lietza then reviewed the Treasurer's account for July and August, 2011. For the period ending August 31, 2011 the Closing Balance was \$7,895.91. Through July & August, the LSPA earned over \$200 of revenue from people who registered Lincoln to receive a donation from Stop & Shop whenever they use their accounts. This revenue came from very few people, so Lietza recommended that we get the word out. The LSPA also discussed support of local businesses in a similar manner, but decided that we needed a district policy for the terms and conditions under which we would promote "support."

Lietza also outlined the reimbursement process for receipts, namely: there are forms in the Treasurer's box in the school's front office which are fairly self-explanatory to complete. Once the paperwork is received, Lietza does our banking online, so reimbursement is very quick.

The LSPA approved both the June YTD and the August YTD reports.

WELCOME BACK DINNER – PAM Balfanz & Shauneen Donlon

Pam & Shauneen, co-chairs of the Events committee, announced that this year's Welcome Back Dinner (WBD) will be held on Thursday, September 22nd from 5-7:30pm, rain or shine. The WBD will have the same format as last year: D'Agostino's will cater and we will have a DJ again. Pam and Shauneen asked for additional volunteers to help, especially for clean-up, so please contact one of them if you can help.

As we did last year, too, any left-over food will be brought to Rosie's Place – Bridget Stump volunteered to bring the food there the next day.

Pam & Shauneen expect the cost to be about the same as last year. They also plan to have everyone pre-pay and register, which worked extremely well with last year's event.

DIRECT APPEAL – ANNIE WESTLUND

Annie, chairperson of the Ways & Means Committee, shared our goals for this year's Direct Appeal campaign. The goal is BOTH to raise \$27,000 *and* to achieve 100% participation from all the Lincoln families. The formal campaign will kick off with a mailed letter and return envelope on or around September 12th, and if all goes well, Annie will wrap up the campaign by December. Annie reminded everyone that we still offer an online PayPal option (with a nominal processing fee) via the LSPA website, www.lincolnspace.org.

To help spur on participation, which typically hovers between 40 and 50% of families, members of the LSPA suggested that Annie share the average amount that participating families give, as well as the wide range (from \$8 up to \$800 or more) to encourage people that every bit helps.

CO-PRESIDENTS' REPORT

Kate Carpini and Sarah Girotti shared a few quick updates. Deb Whitney is once again working to compile the School Directory. Although she is still waiting for all student data, we're hopeful that all of the "process bugs" from last year (our first year doing a directory) have been worked out and we will have a directory much earlier this year than last.

School pictures will be taken 9/26-28, much earlier than last year, too, so hooray! The specific schedule for each classroom will be communicated soon. Some discussion ensued and frustration shared about last year's picture quality, and Kate noted some of this feedback to share with Cydney S. Ambrose, the photographer.

Finally, there are still plenty of volunteer openings, so please contact Kate or Sarah if you would like to help with any LSPA committees. Specifically, there are 3 classrooms without a single room parent – Mrs. McEleney (K), Mrs. Kinsella (2), and Mr. Haugh (5) – so if you have a child in one of these rooms and would like to support your child's teacher, please let us know.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Kate Scanlon reminded everyone that Curriculum Night will be held on Tuesday, September 20, 2011. Please read Kate's letter in yesterday's LincLetter, as it provides the specific 30-minute time that each grade's teachers will hold their class meeting.

October 19-21 will be parent-teacher conferences. These conferences are for goal-setting for the year, while the March conferences are focused on progress against those goals. Each family will receive a specific date and time to meet with their child(ren)'s teacher(s). As in previous years, the 5th graders will provide babysitting assistance; details to follow.

Kate also provided an update on the Triple Marathon program, the idea for which was shared at the LSPA's June 20, 2011 meeting. Two of Lincoln's 4th grade teachers, Ella Adams and Julie McElaney, are kicking off the Triple Marathon program, the goal of which is to "make real" many of the school-wide goals we already espouse: the social and emotional development of every child, community, respect for others, doing for others, and health and fitness. Over the summer, Ella, Julie, and Kate decided it was best to pilot the program this year with only grades 3-5. Information will be sent home with each child in these grades within the next few weeks, including an explanation of the program [it has 3 annual goals for every child who participates: 1) read 26 books, 2) walk or run 26 miles, and 3) complete 26 acts of kindness] and a participation sign-up form. Once children are signed up, more information and ideas on how to complete the goals will be distributed. There are committees established to support each aspect of the program and still plenty of opportunities for parent volunteers; if interested, please contact Kate.

As the terms for School Council rotate, we currently have a parent opening. The time commitment is 1 meeting per month, typically after school on a Wednesday. If you are interested in running, please send Kate a paragraph explaining why you think you should be elected.

Finally, Kate mentioned that both Ceci Cordeiro and Shiva Barton have "retired" and will no longer be available to help with our curbside drop-off service in the morning. If anyone is interested in helping, please contact Kate.

Please note the time change for October's LSPA meeting – it will be held on **Monday, October 3rd at 7pm**. Please join us!

The meeting concluded at 10am.

Respectfully submitted by Cheryl Shepard.